

April 14 1944

Mr Francis Matthews
11 Marble St.
Roxbury Mass.

Dear Matthews:

From the tone of your letter if you agree to play ball with The Eagles, you plan to join them at the start of the season, and I assume go right on salary without having spent any time in training camp with them.

We will have to clear this point up before taking up any more time with discussions. I am sure you are intelligent enough to know this would be a very bad precedent for me to set, and quite unfair to all the other members of the club. It has been a sacrifice for all of them to quit their jobs and go to camp. Conditions today are not what they were a few years ago, when no one was working, and everyone was glad when time came to go to camp.

Getting in condition is not by any means all the training camp does for the team. If this was the case all the men would have been glad to work out in a local gym, and stay on their job until the last minute. It is very important to play together, and learn signals. It is true some men need this training more than others, but everyone needs it. I will therefore have to insist, that if you decide you want to play with us you will have to join the club no later than Sunday April 23rd in Washington when we play The Grays in Griffith Stadium. If you wait until The Eagles return to Newark, you will have to spend two weeks with the team before your salary starts.

Very Truly Yours